

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08525 220807Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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R 220535Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3476

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 8525

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MNUC, IK, FR
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN

REF: PARIS 22983

1. DEPARTMENT IS NO DOUBT WRESTLING WITH INTRICATE
RAMIFICATIONS OF FRENCH PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTTEL.

2. UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MUCH, I AM ALSO UNABLE TO REST IN
PATIENT QUIETUDE. HENCE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

A. ON KNOTTY PROBLEM OF USG FUNDING OF CONTRIBUTION TO
DEFRAY EXTRA COSTS OF MODIFIED PLANT, I HOPE WASHINGTON IS
INCLUDING IN ITS DELIBERATIONS THE LAST-RESORT POSSIBILITY
OF AUGMENTING AMOUNTS AND TERMS OF US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
AS COMPENSATION TO GOP.

B. IN JUST A LITTLE OVER TWO WEEKS, GOP'S DE FACTO FONMIN
AGHA SHAHI WILL RECEIVE FRENCH PROPOSAL IN PARIS AND PRESUMBLY
WILL RETURN POSTHAST TO ISLAMABAD ABOUT SEPTEMBER 10. AS
DE GUIRINGAUD SUGGESTS, I SHOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROACH
GOP PROMPTLY TO CONVEY USG VIEWS. PRESENTATION COULD
INCLUDE THESE POINTS:

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-- FRENCH HAVE TOLD US OF PROPOSAL MADE TO AGHA
SHAHI. FROM USG POINT OF VIEW PROPOSAL SEEMS TO MEET
GOP DESIRE FOR A REPROCESSING FACILITY THAT SUPPORTS
PAKISTAN'S POWER REACTORS.

-- PROPOSAL IS ALSO IN LINE WITH DESIRES OF ALL
NUCLEAR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES TO CURTAIL WORLD-WIDE USE OF
METALLIC PLUTONIUM, AND TO AVOID CREATING PRECEDENT IN

PAKISTAN THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW.

-- WE KNOW THERE ARE ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED,
AND AS PART OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORT, WE ARE
PREPARED TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP COVER
THOSE SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS;

-- GOP ACCEPTANCE OF THE FRENCH OFFER WOULD ENABLE
US TO AVOID APPLICATION OF US LEGISLATIVE SANCTIONS;

-- THEREFORE, IF THE GOP AND GOF GO AHEAD WITH
THE REVISED PROPOSAL, WE COULD LOOK FORWARD TO THE
CONTINUATION OF OUR CLOSE AND BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP,
AND, IN GENERAL, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CORDIAL TIES
THAT HAVE MARKED US-PAK RELATIONS.

C. AGHA SHAHI WILL BE IN NEW YORK BEGINNING SEPT 18.
SECRETARY VANCE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH HIM;
WE SHOULD BY THEN HAVE GOOD FEEL FOR PAK REACTION AND/OR
ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS.

D. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, LE GOURRIEREC, HAS
RETURNED FROM CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS IN WHICH NEW PROPOSAL
WAS BRIEFED TO HIM. HE HAS FELT ME OUT PRIVATELY AND I
HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED I AM AWARE OF A NEW PROPOSAL. IN
CAUTIOUS WAY HE HAS HOPED THAT US SIDE IS HOLDING MATTER
CLOSELY, HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT GOP REACTION, AND
HAS ASKED ABOUT US PLANS FOR SUPPORTING THE FRENCH DEMARCHE.
EQUALLY GINGERLY, I HAVE ASSURED HIM THAT MATTER IS
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VERY CLOSE-HOLD, THAT USG IS CONSIDERING ALL ASPECTS, AND
THAT PARIS IS BEST PLACE FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND
VIEWS.

3. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT THIS TO PARIS.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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